

**Technology Committee
December 8, 2008
5:30 PM
Minutes**

Call to order: Mr. Paini called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Present was Mr. Deeds, Mr. Paini, Mr. Jarvis. Also in attendance was Mayor Ebert, Chris Strayer, Development Director and Rick Brown, IT Coordinator.

Pended Items: None at this time

New Items for Discussion

Fiber Optic Network

Mr. Strayer met with a gentleman from Schottenstein, Zox and Dunn to discuss connecting with the fiber optic network in place in Central Ohio area. They presented Mr. Strayer with some information about what they do for other communities and a proposal to be the Village's on call service for fiber optic network expansion.

After that, Mr. Strayer and Mr. Brown met with AT&T and they presented the map of the fiber optic network already in place in and around the Village. It is pretty well covered at this point and connects back into Columbus. Mr. Brown stated that approx 80% of the Village is covered.

Mr. Jarvis asked how the Village is set up at this time. Mr. Brown stated that we have data center that is run by servers set up in the Water Reclamation facility. That allowed room to have a generator for a back up and an air conditioner unit for the servers and still leave area for expansion.

The current water billing system is not a network system. It is on one computer only and is manually backed-up. Mr. Deeds asked if the company that just installed the VXU equipment has a billing system that would be seamless with the vehicle reading system.

Mr. Brown stated that the T1 cable is small and slow. It takes awhile to get files and load files and it is frustrating for users. That is why we are looking into fiber optics.

Mr. Jarvis noted that the Village is looking at facilities requirements right now and that may allow for growth and a new location for the data center. Mr. Brown stated the current location is not ideal but is workable. Further discussion ensued.

The replacement of the file server and the network infrastructure between the Municipal building and the data center/ server room are the projects scheduled for 2009. Mr. Steve Smith is working with Mr. Brown on getting remote access to the SCADA system.

Mr. Strayer stated that the purpose of getting a provider involved was to see how we are covered fiber optically. Should we choose to have a Village-owned fiber optic network, they would help us to set that up or to find another provider to get different services and spark competition for lower prices. Other than that, we are pretty well served by AT&T.

Mr. Paini asked if there was wireless available to the hospital. It was stated that it is already available.

Mr. Deeds noted that the biggest problem in the industrial park is that there is no high-speed available there. Mr. Strayer stated that it is available across the street. They would have to connect. AT&T hasn't had enough interest from companies to give them reason to further their lines. Mr. Deeds stated that a group of businesses should get together and come to AT&T for service.

Mr. Deeds noted that New Albany was setting up their network and they are using this as their public safety network. They are trading fibers with Gahanna and Dublin and are creating this additional network that the police can use to communicate back and forth amongst divisions and communities. Discussion ensued about opening the corridor to the southeast, if they are bringing areas into their combined networks.

Mr. Strayer stated that at a minimum we should be preparing for a network. Road projects should be laying empty conduits in the ground to be pulled later. No other communities in the area, Groveport, Grove City and Obetz, are looking to connect with the network. They are content with AT&T, so if we were to connect, it would just be us unless we partner with SWACO. There are advantages to having that connection.

Mr. Jarvis noted that there is grant money available. Mr. Strayer stated that it is so far away from us right now, it would be incredibly expensive to get it here without partnering with someone else to bring it closer. The advantage to being connected from a marketing standpoint is guaranteed connectivity. For example, if a Dublin company wants to branch out to Canal Winchester, we could guarantee connectivity to their Dublin office. We could also offer it free as an added incentive. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Strayer stated that the proposal he has basically said the company will help us figure out what we have, design a network and help figure out how to fund it. We could partner with Violet Township. In that case, we could have them work up another proposal.

It was decided that Mr. Strayer would talk to CWICC and Violet Township to see if there is any interest in joining together. Have Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn prepare another proposal and bring it back to Technology Committee at their next meeting, possibly in January or February 2009. Mr. Deeds added that AT&T could come to the next meeting as well.

Other Business:

Mr. Jarvis moved to appoint Mr. Deeds as Vice-Chair. Mr. Paini seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYE** Mr. Jarvis, Mr. Deeds and Mr. Paini
 NAY
 Motion carried.

Mr. Paini added that he would like to get an Email list available for residents to sign-up for that would then send informational updates from the Village for events, etc. Also, there could be a text message system that a resident could sign up for that would, for example, alert people when school is letting out early, is delayed or is cancelled. These could be used by the schools, Main Street organization and Amber Alert.

Mayor Ebert said that there is a program called Red Alert that allows for that service. He has a person to meet with, but she is in Florida for the winter and won't be back to Ohio until spring.

Mr. Paini would like to be a part of that meeting when it's set up. In the meantime, we can get the e-mail program set up. Mr. Brown will gather information and bring it back to Mr. Paini and Mr. Jarvis.

Mr. Paini noted that the website is difficult to navigate, especially for contact numbers. Mr. Brown stated that contact numbers are on the top left of the home page. Discussion ensued regarding changes to the website.

Adjournment:

Mr. Jarvis moved to adjourn this meeting of the finance committee and was seconded by Mr. Deeds.

VOTE: **AYE** Mr. Jarvis, Mr. Deeds and Mr. Paini
 NAY
 Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:24P.M.